



Butte County

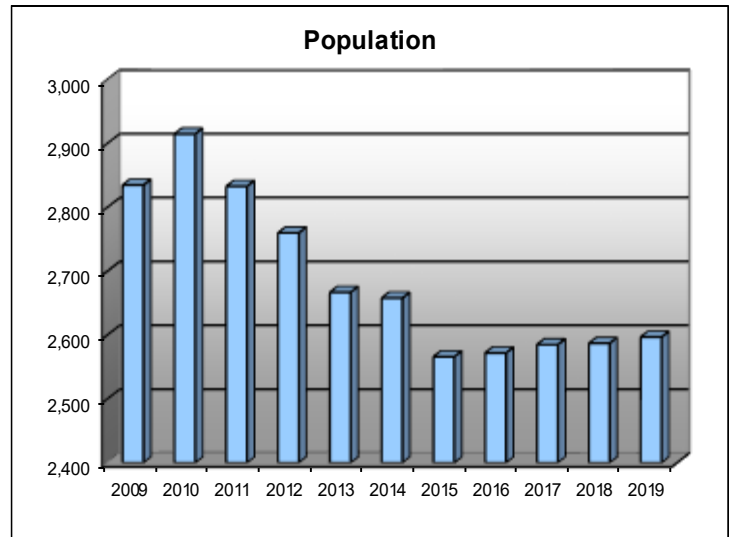
June 2020

IDAHO
DEPT. OF LABOR

Workforce Trends

Population

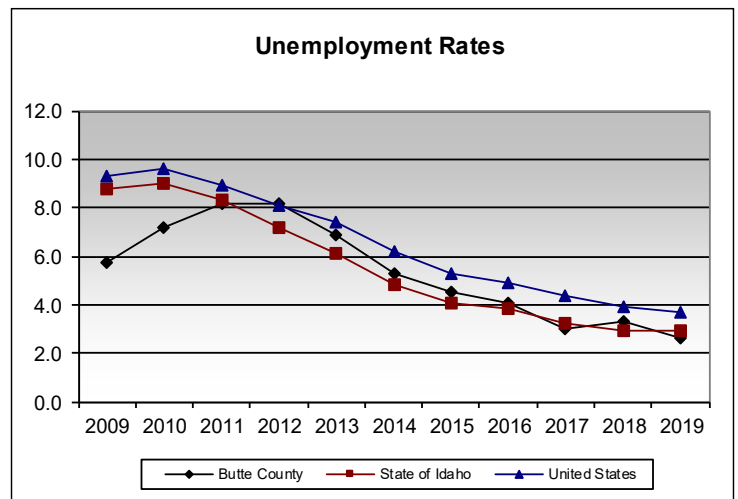
Butte County has seen its population fall over the last decade, dropping 238 between 2009 and 2019. However, since 2016 the population has experienced small increases to 2,597 in 2019. Difficulty keeping young people after high school graduation has contributed to the stagnant population. Still, the county is committed to economic development and a long-range plan for stability. It is focusing on tourists traveling through to destinations like Craters of the Moon National Monument and Sun Valley. The Idaho National Laboratory is located about 12 miles from Arco, the county seat. The majority of the 7,000 or more employees located at the laboratory work in the county but live elsewhere and commute by mass transit, making it a challenge for the county to see much economic gain from the laboratory. Arco, the largest city in the county, had a 2019 population of 880.



Labor Force & Employment

With a smaller population and labor force, the unemployment rate in Butte County fluctuates. In 2007 the county's unemployment fell to 2.5 percent. As the recession took hold in 2008, however, the rate nearly doubled to 4.3 percent and continued to climb, peaking at 8.2 percent in 2012. Despite fluctuations, the county's unemployment rate has remained below the national average for most of the last decade. In 2019 the rate experienced a drop to 2.6 percent.

The majority of the county's jobs are in professional and business services, which are mostly located at the federal laboratory. Government is a stable employer that includes small offices of several federal agencies along with county and school workers. The incubation center in Arco and the Butte County Economic Development group



continue to focus on and assist with business development and attraction. Tourism is also an important economic factor because of the Craters of the Moon National Monument.

In 2014 the U.S. Census Bureau announced that Butte County is officially part of the Idaho Falls metropolitan statistical area. This change is the result of a significant number of workers commuting to Butte for work at the national laboratory.

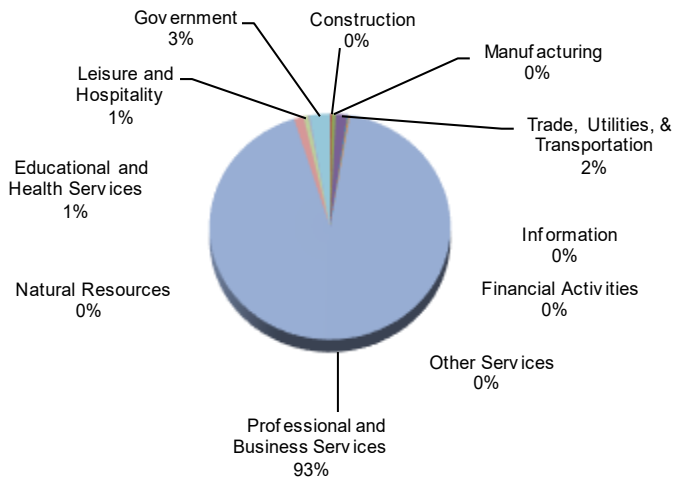
Labor Force	May 19	May 20
Civilian Labor Force	1,387	1,438
Total Employment	1,349	1,358
Unemployed	38	80
% of Labor Force Unemployed	2.7	5.6
State of Idaho % Unemployed	2.9	8.9
U.S. % Unemployed	3.6	13.3

Labor Force	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Civilian Labor Force	1,471	1,352	1,325	1,336	1,296	1,301	1,277	1,295	1,332	1,363	1,397
Unemployment	84	98	108	109	89	69	57	53	40	45	37
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.7	7.2	8.2	8.2	6.9	5.3	4.5	4.1	3.0	3.3	2.6
Employment	1,387	1,254	1,217	1,227	1,207	1,232	1,220	1,242	1,292	1,318	1,360

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Nonfarm Payroll Jobs for 2019



Covered Employment

While Butte County benefits from one of the state's largest employers, the Idaho National Laboratory, most workers at the lab live outside the county. For this county it is important to remember that employment and wage numbers are calculated by where the jobs occur. As such, the high wages at the laboratory artificially elevate the average wage in the county due to the fact that only a small percentage of the county's residents actually work at the lab. While the county's average wage paid in 2018 was \$92,354, per capita income was \$38,961.

Major Employers

U.S. Department of Energy
Battelle Energy Alliance
Fluor Idaho
Fluor Marine Propulsion
Butte County School District # 111
CH2M-WG Idaho
Lost River Hospital

Idaho Falls MSA Occupational Wages*	Entry Wage	Median Wage
Bookkeeping, Accounting & Auditing Clerk	\$11.61	\$16.75
Cashiers	\$8.38	\$10.54
Construction Laborers	\$11.92	\$14.71
Cooks, Restaurant	\$9.32	\$11.85
Customer Service Representatives	\$10.96	\$14.38
Engineers (All)	\$37.47	\$53.35
Exec.Secretaries & Administrative	\$16.06	\$22.47
Farmworkers and Laborers - Crop	\$9.74	\$11.92
Farmworkers, Farm, & Ranch Animals	\$8.34	\$13.05
Food Servers, Nonrestaurant	\$10.33	\$11.84
Licensed Practical Nurses	\$16.20	\$19.67
Office Clerks, General	\$10.18	\$14.89
Radiologic Technologists & Technicians	\$20.82	\$27.86
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.15	\$17.87
Waiters & Waitresses	\$8.47	\$11.18

* Additional occupational wage data can be found on the Idaho Department of Labor website at <https://lmi.idaho.gov/oes>

Covered Employment & Average Annual Wages Per Job for 2009, 2018 & 2019	2009		2018		2019	
	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages	Average Employment	Average Wages
Total Covered Wages	8,348	\$76,637	7,981	\$92,354	8,347	\$94,982
Agriculture	43	\$19,242	39	\$30,784	35	\$35,692
Mining	0	\$0	0	\$0	**	**
Construction	9	\$62,628	15	\$45,879	18	\$50,049
Manufacturing	18	\$70,178	47	\$47,000	44	\$42,073
Trade, Utilities, & Transportation	117	\$16,896	119	\$28,561	128	\$31,312
Information	6	\$22,590	13	\$54,874	12	\$51,688
Financial Activities	31	\$29,035	16	\$31,111	16	\$23,448
Professional and Business Services	7,604	\$81,048	7,344	\$97,321	7,695	\$100,055
Educational and Health Services	148	\$32,495	100	\$42,481	109	\$37,700
Leisure and Hospitality	71	\$10,478	53	\$15,819	52	\$12,489
Other Services	18	\$28,058	17	\$27,642	14	\$29,629
Government	284	\$41,469	220	\$37,291	224	\$38,905

Per Capita Income	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Butte County	\$30,268	\$28,567	\$31,875	\$31,839	\$34,414	\$34,022	\$38,142	\$38,615	\$37,944	\$38,961
State of Idaho	\$31,186	\$31,957	\$33,515	\$35,188	\$36,200	\$37,896	\$39,857	\$40,670	\$42,094	\$43,901
United States	\$39,284	\$40,546	\$42,735	\$44,599	\$44,851	\$47,058	\$48,978	\$49,870	\$51,885	\$54,446

Information provided by Bureau Economic Analysis